(d) whether this date was subsequently extended upto 10th November, 1991;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether another meeting of the Committee was held on 4th November, 1991; and

(g) if so, what was the necessity of giving extension when the report of the Committee was already with Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) to (g) The Expert Committee on Electropathy/Electrohomoeopathy system of medicine submitted the proceedings of their meeting on 27-8-91. In the absence of a report on the terms of reference for which the Committee was constituted, they were asked to furnish the same; the tenure of the Committee was also extended upto 10-11-91. The Committee's report was received on 4-11-91 but could not be considered owing to the matter being subjudice.

Spurious and Substandard Ayurvedic Drugs

1426. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Ayurvedic Drugs are not covered under the purview of Drug Control Act, as a result of which spurious/substandard Ayurvedic Drugs are pumped into the market;

(b) whether Government have any laboratory to test such drugs; and

(c) what steps Government contemplate to control and regulate the quality of these Ayurvedic Drugs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) No, Sir.

Ayurvedic drugs are covered under the purview of Drugs & Cosmetics Act.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) All States have appointed Drug Controllers for Indian medicines alongwith other personnel for the purpose.

Malpractice by Physicians/Medical Practitioners

1427. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of malpractice committed by Physicians/Medical Practitioners by directly selling/distributing medicines to the patients, without holding any qualification/licence under Drugs Control Act to do so;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that this malpractice leads to distribution of fake/substandard/spurious medicines as most of the Medical Sales representatives are not registered; and

(c) if so, what steps Government contemplate to do away/regulate this practice ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) to (c) Under Section 42 of the Pharmacy Act, 1948, no person other than a registered pharmacist shall compound, prepare, mix or dispense any medicine on the prescription of a medical practitioner. However, a medical practitioner may dispense medicine for his own patients or with the general or special sanction of the State Government, for the patients of another medical practitioner.

AIDS spread among teenage studends in Tamil Nadu

1428. SHRI BALBIR SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the spread of the dreaded scourage AIDS among teenage students in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, what effective steps have been taken/proposed to be taken for containing its further spread, in consultation with the State Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) "Government is aware of reports appearing in cer-

tain sections of the media about the spread of HIV infection among teenagers in Tamil Nadu".

(b) The Government of India has launched a centrally sponsored scheme, with assistance from the World Bank and W.H.O. for the prevention and control of a AIDS in the country. The accent is on prevention as AIDS has no cure as of now. The programme components consist of strengthening management, increasing the level of awareness in community and individuals, increasing safety of blood and blood products, augmenting STD Control Programme and improving clinical management and surveillance. A scheme for creating awareness about AIDS amongst University students has been drawn by the Department of Youth Affairs.

Alarming AIDS cases in rural belt of Western Maharashtra

1429. DR. BAPU KALDATE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the rural belt of Western Maharashtra is virtually sitting on a AIDS bomb with over 75 per cent of the last series of tests showing HIV positive;

(b) whether it is a fact that certain projects taken up by Government of Maharashtra are jointly funded by the State Government and the ICMR;

(c) if so, what are their respective obligations in respect of the joint projects; and

(d) what is the nature and quantum of central assistance given proposed to be given to the State Government of Maharashtra to meet alarming AIDS situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) The Govt. is aware of increasing trends of HIV infection in Western Maharashtra. However, no specific survey was conducted in that area. Therefore, it would not be correct to say that over 75% HIV positive infected persons are from Western Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Govt. of Maharashtra and ICMR have taken up rehabilitation project at Sangli district for HIV positive commercial sex workers. For the said project, ICMR has given one time grant of Rs. 5.64 lakhs towards addition and alteration in the existing building for rehabilitation purposes. ICMR has also promised to provide financial assistance @ Rs. 1,500/- per month per head limited to 25 commercial sex workers only under this project. Commitment on the part of State Govt. is under consideration.

(d) Govt. of India will provide grant for the prevention and control of AIDS activities in the State at 100% reimbursement basis. A sanction of Rs. 90.665 lakhs for various activities for the year 1992-93 has already been conveyed. In addition, the Govt. of India is also providing assistance in the form of equipments and HIV Kits.

Sale of Irradiated Food Items in the Country

1430. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have frawed rules to enable sale of irradiated food items in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have published draft rules on food irradiation for inviting public comments.

The draft rules provide details with respect to lists of items to be irradiated, process of irradiation, licensing and labelling of irradiated food.

Guidelines by the Councils in opening of new Colleges

1431. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any guidelines prescribed by the concerned councils in